

Dramaturgy: Can we find out how common the name Antipholus was during this time period please?

The name ‘Antipholus’, like ‘Imogen,’ ‘Miranda,’ ‘Celia,’ and ‘Jessica,’ were all invented by Shakespeare, so it can be assumed that it was not at all common. The name also seems to defy meaning; that is to say the name breaks down into Greek-sounding parts with no actual definition.

The screenshot shows a website titled "www.baby-names-meanings.net/meaning/antipholus.html". It features a navigation menu with categories like Home, Health, Recreation, Automotive, Business, Entertainment, Internet, Kids, and Games. A search bar at the top right contains the text "names shakespeare invented". Below the navigation, there is a "Jump to a letter" section with a grid of letters A-Z. The main content area is titled "Meaning of the Name Antipholus" and contains a table with the following data:

name	meaning	gender	origin
Adriana	'The Comedy of Errors' Wife to Antipholus of Ephesus	female	Shakespearean
Aeglon	'The Comedy of Errors' Father to the Twin Brothers Antipholus of Ephesus, and Antipholus of Syracuse	male	Shakespearean
Antipholus	'The Comedy of Errors' Twin Brothers, Both Named Antipholus, Sons to Aemelia and Aeglon. Antipholus of Ephesus, and Antipholus of Syracuse	male	Shakespearean
Dromio	'The Comedy of Errors' Twin Brothers, Both Named Dromio, Attendants on the Twin Antipholuses. Dromio of Ephesus, and Dromio of Syracuse	male	Shakespearean
Luciana	'The Comedy of Errors' Sister to Adriana, and Sister-in-law to Antipholus of Ephesus	female	Shakespearean

The screenshot shows the "All Dictionary" website. The search bar contains "Antipholus" and the search results are displayed below. The main heading is "What does Antipholus mean?". Below this, there is a section titled "What does 'Antipholus' name mean in Names Dictionary" with the following definition:

- o 'The Comedy of Errors' Twin brothers, both named Antipholus, sons to Aemelia and Aeglon. Antipholus of Ephesus, and Antipholus OF Syracuse.

Additional information provided includes "Name Origin: Shakespearean" and "Name Gender: Male". The page footer contains "Home Terms and Conditions Contact Us" and "Copyright © 2013-2015 by All Dictionary".

From the Hudson Shakespeare Company:

The screenshot shows a page from the Hudson Shakespeare Company website. It contains detailed information about the characters Antipholus and Dromio. The text is organized into sections:

- ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE/ ANTIPHOLUS OF EPHEBUS:** Antipholus of Ephesus; Antipholus of Syracuse are long-separated twins who are comically confused with each other and eventually reunited. The twins were parted, each with a different parent, in a shipwreck when they were infants. Twin servants, each called Dromio, were being brought up with the boys, and they too were separated in the wreck, one going with each master. In 1.1 the twins' father, Egeon, explains their history before they appear, so the audience knows of their relationship, though neither they nor any of the other characters do. In adulthood, the twins have both become merchants, each from a different city, but each bearing the same name. The two brothers are distinctly different characters. Antipholus of Syracuse arrives in Ephesus, searching the world for his lost brother, for he cannot feel whole until he finds his family. In Ephesus, he is mistaken for his twin, a well-known local merchant, and various strangers startle him by knowing his name and assuming he knows them. He finds himself dining in his brother's home, and his brother's wife, ADRIANA, believes him to be her husband. Antipholus of Syracuse is so completely mystified by his curious circumstances that he blindly accepts them. Misunderstanding and confusion continue to abound until Antipholus of Syracuse is driven to take refuge in a priory. Meanwhile, Antipholus of Ephesus has been subjected to similar difficulties, but his responses are characteristically more angry than bemused. For example, when locked out of his house by servants and wife (who believe him an imposter, for the other Antipholus is dining there), he proposes to force his way in with a crow-bar but is dissuaded from this course. In the end, the brothers are reunited, as the Duke of Ephesus attempts to resolve the disorders that the confusion has created. The Dromios are brought back together again as well; Antipholus of Ephesus and Adriana are reconciled; Antipholus of Syracuse is free to woo Luciana; and the twins' parents, Egeon and Emilia, rediscover each other, too. The story of the twins presents in an early work a theme that was to be important in Shakespearean Comedy, the power of providential happenings to defeat potential evil through a general reconciliation. This theme provides the moral ground beneath the farcical atmosphere of *The Comedy of Errors*.
- DROMIO OF SYRACUSE/ DROMIO OF EPHEBUS:** Dromio of Ephesus and Dromio of Syracuse are twin servants to the twin masters Antipholus of Ephesus and Antipholus of Syracuse. The Dromios were separated from each other in infancy, each with a similarly separated master, in a shipwreck. They share with their masters the confusions and errors that mistaken identities lead to. As comic buffoons, the Dromios receive numerous beatings as their masters' affairs become increasingly disordered, and they respond with quips and quibbles, in a tradition of stock humorous servants and slaves that extends back at least to the Roman drama from which Shakespeare took much of the material for the play. The Dromios also share with their masters the joyful reunion at the end of the play. Shakespeare may have taken the name Dromio from the play *Mother Bombe* by John Lyly (published 1594), who may, in turn, have based it on the name Dromo, frequently used for slaves in the work of the Roman dramatist Terence.

*For more info about “Dromio” (Dromo), see:

Dramaturge Report – J.K. Rogers

Watson, John Calvin. "Scene-Headings and Miniatures in Terence." *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology*, vol. 14. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1903. eBook. *Google Books*. Web. 4 May 2015.

Addendum: It is unclear how common the name is within *Comedy of Errors*; however, like so many of Shakespeare's other comedies, I suspect that there is a healthy dose of retcon (retroactive continuity) amnesia involved allowing for the "big reveal" of the presence of mistaken identity (a form of *deus ex machina*).

Also, can we please get some alternative references for Antipholus on page 139 in scene 51?

Resolved per Joseph Gilg email:



Joseph Gilg <jgilg@uoregon.edu>
to Jessica, Andrea, Tommy ▾

11:24 AM (5 minutes ago) ☆



Actually we solved this last night and I was pleased with what Andriana did with the line. It has to do that Andriana refers to her husband by name while Egeon is on stage with the queen. We adjusted the line from "May it please your grace, Antipholus, my husband," to "May it please your grace, you know my husband,..." One question we asked was if Antipholus was a common enough name that Egeon would not be suspicious but then made the adjustment to the line so Egeon does not hear that name at all.

Joseph

